

IMAGE GUIDED INTERVENTIONAL METHOD AND APPARATUS

Abstract

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, an image guided interventional system enables registration of a patient, preferably automatically and without an explicit patient registration step, to newly acquired images as the patient is moved out of the imager. Only one set of images has to be taken. The position of the needle or other instrument is tracked using a tracking system and its position continually displayed and updated with respect to the images. Therefore, there is no need to take additional images for purposes of tracking progress of an instrument being inserted into a patient. Avoiding additional scans saves time and reduces exposure of the patient to radiation.